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ABSTRACT

This book examines the history of Bowdoin College, chartered in 1794 by the General Court of Massachusetts and endowed by James Bowdoin, the school's namesake. Nine chapters address: (1) the movement to establish the college in the district of Maine in the late 18th century; (2) the opening of the college in 1802 and its early development; (3) the role of the college in the new state of Maine, (established 1820); (4) the activities of the college in the mid-19th century; (5) student life and culture at Bowdoin in the mid-19th century; (6) the role of Bowdoin College, its alumni, and its students in the American Civil War and Reconstruction; (7) the transformation and reform of the college in the late-19th century; (8) the effects of the two World Wars and the Great Depression on the college, its alumni, and its students; and (9) the arrival of coeducation in the early 1970s and recent trends at the college. Four appendixes contain the Charter of Bowdoin College, the Laws of Bowdoin College, excerpts from the college catalog, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "Morituri Salutamus." Each chapter contains a list of references. (MDM)

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